

we care about them, and that they are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, as the world leader, the United States has the wonderful opportunity, and I argue obligation, to help improve conditions worldwide. We must not waste our chance to help the peaceful people of East Timor live free from daily fear and oppression.

"ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL"

HON. BILL ORTON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. ORTON. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct the Voice of Democracy broadcast script-writing contest. It is a truly worthwhile program that not only gives our youth academic support through scholarship awards, but also gives them the opportunity to become more acquainted with local veterans. The contest theme this year was "Answering America's Call."

Today, I am proud to recognize a bright, young member of my district, Michael Fox, for his patriotic writing ability. Michael and 53 others were chosen from a group of more than 100,000 participants to receive scholarships that will provide crucial assistance in meeting the costs of higher education. I am pleased to pay tribute to Michael Fox by presenting his award-winning script to the U.S. Congress.

The following is a copy of Michael Fox's winning script:

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Michael Fox)

For every generation of this great nation, since before it was christened America, there has been at least one great call. A resounding call for decisive, cooperative, forceful action. Each great call centers around a crisis which if left unresolved would compromise or even destroy the wonderful land that is the United States of America. A great call is heard by every citizen in every corner of the land, and each is answered by the champions of America. It is thanks to these brave heroes, the champions of America that this nation exists today as the greatest on earth.

The standard for the great American hero was set in the early days by the father of our country, George Washington and the army that followed him in rebellion against the oppressive tyranny of England. This army was raised out of a haphazard group of farmers who made up for what they lacked in classical military know-how with courage, smarts, rugged individualism and honor. The sheer, rabid will to fight, and the selfless willingness to give up their lives so that their families could be free won the day for that heroic legion.

After that conflict, in which America won the right to rule itself, another kind of hero emerged. This hero had the same moral qualities as the men of Washington's army. Many in fact were veterans. But they responded to a different call. Theirs was the burden of leadership, of establishing order, and striking a balance between government rule and personal freedom. The qualities of the American hero gave these men the ability to build a nation such as none before it. They had the insight to realize that people, if given the chance, could rule themselves better than any king. They had the courage to try out new ideas on a national scale. And they had the honor to keep the new govern-

ment free of the kind of power-hungry corruption that hindered France on its path to freedom.

The success of these early American champions in hearing and answering the call of America set a precedent, and defined our national character. It is the men and women in possession of this virtuous national character, that have carried us through every hardship. It is the ability of this American champion to answer the call with brave deeds and wise words that has brought the nation intact through every war, every depression, and every catastrophe.

But the great calls of America are by no means the only ones. The heroic deeds recorded in history books are in and of themselves not sufficient to maintain America. The true American champion need not fight in a revolution or rescue his nation from an economic disaster. For the spirit of the American champion is powerful when applied to every aspect of life. The characteristics of George Washington can be observed every day in the people who beat back the criminal element that grows in our cities like a cancer, in the people who work to build and feed not only America but also the less fortunate countries of the world, and in the people who teach the children so that the next generation of Americans may be as wise, brave, and honorable as the first. These people who answer the subtle calls of America are the glue that holds the nation together.

If our nation is to continue to grow and progress, each of us must be committed to the ideals of the American champion. Each of us must be ready for America's next great call. But in the absence of a great call, each of us must be sensitive to the little calls. And when the call comes, we'll fight. We'll never run away. Because ever since America began, the land of the free has also been the home of the brave.

CHRISTINA CABRERA, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST WINNER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call the attention of the House to the work of Christina Cabrera of Seaford, DE. Christina is Delaware's State winner of the Veterans of Foreign War's Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest and has also been named a national winner and recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship award from the VFW. I congratulate Christina, her family, and VFW Post 4961 in Seaford, DE for sponsoring this excellent program.

As my colleagues know, the VFW has sponsored the Voice of Democracy Competition for 49 years to promote patriotic and civic responsibility among our young people and to help them attend college through the scholarship awards. The competition requires students to write and record a 3 to 5 minute essay on a patriotic theme. This year, over 116,000 students participated in the contest on the theme: "Answering America's Call." I am very proud to share with the House, Christina's excellent essay on the need for young people to answer the call and become actively involved in making our country a better place to live.

Again, congratulations to Christina, the Cabrera family, and the members of VFW Post 4961 for their fine work.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Christina Cabrera)

Ring. Ring. Hello. Hello, this is America calling. Oh, hello.

I am calling to tell you that America as we know it is slowly deteriorating. The percentage of teenage pregnancy, alcohol abuse, and violence is every increasing. As for adults, the percentage of registered voters that actually vote is declining, unemployment is a widespread concern, and everyone seems to be pointing a finger of accusation at everyone else in a childish blame game.

I know all of this, but why are you calling me? I am calling you because, as a member of today's youth, you are a part of tomorrow's leaders. You are the only chance America has.

This phone conversation, though somewhat silly, is more serious than it appears. Unfortunately, many adolescents and young adults are not answering the call for action to make this country an even better place than it is. Though Americans are already free, the need to be productive and successful is important as well. Americans owe it to themselves as a nation, and to the memory of those who gave their lives for freedom and made the United States the country it is today.

There are several ways one can answer the call. One way is to volunteer. Community service is always appreciated by those who are being helped. Working at a soup kitchen, visiting the sick or shut-in, or babysitting for free the kids down the road whose mother is struggling to make ends meet are all simple ways to make one's community better. Another way to answer America's call is to devote oneself to a political or humanitarian cause. Help make public service announcements concerning violence or drug and alcohol abuse. Join the staff of a Planned Parenthood Clinic or a Suicide Hotline. An increasing number of persons using these facilities need someone to talk to. Many options are available, and the experience is worth the effort. A final way to answer the call is to make a big step and join the military. This provides an opportunity for one to defend one's country, an important job in today's nuclear-weapon-stocked world. It does not matter what one does, as long as one takes the initiative to help out instead of waiting for others to do so.

The most important part of answering America's call is to cease playing the blame game. By making oneself a victim and shifting the blame on everyone else, one only adds to the problems plaguing our country. Instead of complaining that society treats women unfairly, join a group that advocates change. Instead of complaining that racial minorities are unequally treated, write to Congress and let them know. If change is to be brought about, it will only occur if everyone helps to make it happen.

By answering the call, not only will Americans be helping the United States become a stronger nation, but will also be setting an example for others to start contributing their talents

to make America a better place. When everyone begins doing their part, a magnificent nation will emerge.

TRIBUTE TO BERNADETTE F.
BAYNE, ESQ.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as a jurist and practicing attorney in Brooklyn for over 25 years, Bernadette F. Bayne has epitomized hardwork and dedication. A graduate of Pace University and New York University School of Law, Ms. Bayne served as a criminal court judge for the city of New York from 1991 to 1994. Prior to this distinguished honor, Ms. Bayne used her legal expertise to improve the quality of life for New York City by serving as an administrative law judge for the New York State Workers' Compensation Board, as a former commissioner of the New York City Civil Service Commission, and as staff attorney for the criminal defense division of the Brooklyn Legal Aid Society.

Currently, in private practice, Ms. Bayne is admitted to practice in New York State, the Federal courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the Court of Appeals. Her various professional affiliations include the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, Kings County Criminal Bar Association, Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, Bedford Stuyvesant Lawyers Association, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Ms. Bayne and her husband, Bernard, are the proud parents of two children, Tracy and Michael. I am pleased to introduce Ms. Bayne to my colleagues.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY REDUCTION
ACT OF 1996

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Act of 1996, a bill that has bi-partisan support. This bill will provide for in-depth evaluation of teen pregnancy prevention programs nationwide.

This bill is one of the first initiatives of the Congressional Advisory Panel to the National Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy—a bi-partisan panel that was announced earlier today. I am very proud that I am introducing this bill with my co-chair of the Advisory Panel, Rep. MIKE CASTLE, and the vice-chairs of the Advisory Panel, Reps. NANCY JOHNSON and EVA CLAYTON. Several other members of the Advisory Panel join us as original co-sponsors.

This bill provides for very needed in-depth evaluation of promising teen pregnancy prevention programs. At a time when we are discussing making serious investments in teen pregnancy prevention programs, it is critical that we understand which programs are truly effective, why they are effective, and whether they can be replicated in other communities.

Teen pregnancy is one of the most critical issues facing America today. The explosion of

out-of-wedlock teen births in the United States is a moral crisis that threatens to undermine our Nation.

Each year, 1 million American teenagers become pregnant and approximately 175,000 teens give birth to their first child. The number of teen mothers in the United States has risen by 21 percent in the last decade. As a result, the United States now has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the Western World.

The odds are stacked against the children of teen mothers from the minute they are born. These children are more likely to be born prematurely and have lower birth weights than other children. As they grow older, the children of teen mothers are more likely to drop out of high school, wind up in jail, or end up on welfare.

Teen mothers also face serious problems. They are more likely to drop out of high school and end up on welfare. In fact, a new report just released by the non-partisan Robin Hood foundation revealed that the teen pregnancy crisis costs our Nation an estimated \$29 billion a year in increased education, welfare and prison expenses.

As a nation, we can no longer afford the consequences of teen pregnancy.

We must provide teens with positive options to pregnancy. We must expand employment and educational opportunities for teens so that they have realistic alternatives to pregnancy. Public policy must help our children learn and help them to get jobs.

Community leaders must also speak out and use their influence. Our Nation's culture must change. We must encourage America's teens to remain abstinent and responsible before marriage. We must restore the stigma that used to accompany teen pregnancy and make it very clear to America's teens that pregnancy is just not an option.

Teen pregnancy robs teens of both their childhood and their futures. It also robs their children, and their children's children. As leaders in our communities, we must speak out on this issue. This bill is one of the first steps we need to take in order to break this tragic cycle.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIV
PREVENTION ACT OF 1996

HON. TOM A. COBURN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, it has been just 15 years since the first cases of AIDS were recognized. The first thousand cases had been reported to the CDC by February 1983. The cumulative incidence of reported AIDS reached 10,000 in the spring of 1985, only 2 years later. The cumulative number of cases reached a total of 513,486 by the end of 1995. Of these, 319,849 were known to have died. Clearly, this is an epidemic of historic proportion that is continuing to grow.

While no cure exists for AIDS, we know enough about the disease to prevent its spread completely. For instance, we now know that AIDS is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] and is actually the end stage of HIV infection. We also know that the disease is transmitted through the exchange of body fluids and it attacks the body's immune system, eventually leaving the body unable to fend off disease.

What we do not know is the extent of the disease. We have failed to employ the public health procedures which have been successful in curtailing other epidemics in our efforts against HIV. These include confidential HIV reporting and partner notification.

We have made an effort to report cases of AIDS on a State and National level but not cases of HIV. We do not make it a priority to notify those who may have been exposed that their lives may be endangered.

Put simply, the Federal Government and the public health community have been AWOL in the battle against HIV. Sound medical practices have been abandoned and replaced with political correctness. HIV has been treated as a civil rights' issue instead of the public health crisis that it is.

Today, I am happy to introduce the HIV Prevention Act of 1996 in an attempt to return sound medical practices to our Nation's public health policy and curtail the spread of the deadly HIV epidemic.

Recent scientific breakthroughs make prompt passage of this bill extremely important.

Many of the world's top HIV scientists have suggested that it may be possible to eradicate the virus from the body and completely suppress it by using a combination of new HIV drugs. Some believe that these drugs may transform HIV from a terminal disease into a chronic disease like diabetes or heart disease. However, researchers agree that the success of these drugs depends upon getting treatment early.

This bill aims at protecting the uninfected and at helping those who are infected to discover their status as early as possible to maximize the opportunities now available.

The following is a section-by-section summary of the proposal.

IMPROVED HIV EPIDEMIC MEASUREMENT

The HIV Prevention Act establishes a confidential national HIV reporting effort.

Currently every State reports AIDS cases, which is merely the end stage HIV infection. By confidentially reporting new cases of HIV, those responsible for control of the disease can more accurately determine the current extent of the epidemic as well as future trends, rates of progression, direction of spread, possible changes in transmissibility and other critical factors of disease control. Such information will allow for the development of long-term strategies based on reliable data.

PARTNER NOTIFICATION

The HIV Prevention Act would require States to inform individuals if they may have been exposed to HIV by a current or past partner.

Partner notification is the only timely way to alert those in danger of infection and is the standard public health procedure for curtailing the spread of virtually all other sexually transmitted diseases.

Partner notification essentially requires two steps. The first is counsel all infected individuals about the importance of notifying their partner or partners that they may have been exposed. The second is for their doctor to forward the names of any partners named by the infected person to the Department of Health where specially trained public health professionals complete the notification. In all cases, the privacy of the infected person is, and must be, protected by withholding the name of the infected person from the partner being notified.